

A former prosecutor with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, Christopher has spent over 15 years serving as the General Counsel to the Board of Public Works. He has been the Public Works Department's legal counsel on environmental regulatory issues including wastewater treatment, air quality, and storm water management. He played a leadership role in guaranteeing clean and safe water for future generations of Californians by helping ensure the upgrade of the Hyperion Treatment Plant to full secondary treatment of its wastewater. Christopher helped to develop and defend policies that have helped clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and achieve 100 percent beneficial reuse of the city's biosolids. His negotiations in a landmark settlement agreement for Los Angeles' collection systems led to a reduction in sewer spills of more than 70 percent. Christopher also participated in the development and implementation of Proposition "O", which provided for \$500 million in bonds for stormwater management improvements and green technologies.

In 1999, Mr. Westhoff was elected to NACWA's Board of Directors. He currently acts as the Association's Vice President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Later this month, Christopher will become NACWA's President. As the President of NACWA, he will build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment.

For his tireless commitment to ensuring that Los Angeles becomes an environmentally smart city, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Christopher Westhoff on becoming President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival which is celebrating an outstanding 40-year tradition. A special Monterey County Celtic Week, with a variety of Celtic-themed activities and events, will commemorate this milestone. These events include a Caber Parade in Carmel; the 3rd Annual Monterey Bay School of Piping and Drumming; a performance by the Monterey Bay Pipe Band in the 4th of July Parade in downtown Monterey; a Celtic Concert with musicians and dancers; culminating in the 40th Annual Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival on July 7th–8th.

Featuring fun activities for the entire family, the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival is a wonderful "festival for the senses" which includes authentic Celtic music, colorful Highland, Scottish and Irish dancing, athletic competitions such as the famous Caber Toss, massed pipe bands on parade, children's games, delicious food, great shopping, and more.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival not only is an exciting event to attend, it also raises money to benefit many local chari-

table organizations. Over the past 40 years, the Festival has donated thousands of dollars to various organizations such as Peninsula Outreach, Alliance on Aging, Monterey Schools, Meals on Wheels, Boy Scouts of America, and the Armed Forces Relief Fund.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival celebrates tradition and family by highlighting and creating music, dance and athletic competitions for the youth and participating community members of the Monterey Area. The festival keeps alive the Celtic culture in Monterey County, promotes the study of Celtic music and dance, and awards funds and youth scholarships to the Monterey School of Piping and Drumming.

Madam Speaker, the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival provides quality events in a unique, friendly setting to educate, entertain, and inspire the local Monterey community as well as attract visitors to the County. The contributions the Festival has made to the community are invaluable and I am honored to acknowledge July 1–8, 2007, as Monterey County Celtic Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on June 22, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I was attending a memorial service for the nine firefighters who so bravely gave their lives in the line of duty on June 18, 2007, in Charleston, SC.

Regarding the votes that I missed, please see below how I would have voted had I been present:

Rollcall vote No. 543: On the Motion to Call the Previous Question for the Rule on H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriation Act.—"nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 544: On the Motion adopting the Rule for H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriation Act.—"nay."

Rollcall vote No. 545: On the Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE of Arizona to reduce funding for the Government Printing Office by \$3,200,000.—"yea."

Rollcall vote No. 546: On the Amendment offered by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio to reduce appropriations in the bill by 4 percent across the board.—"yea."

Rollcall vote No. 547: On Republican Motion to Recommit that would strike the \$16 million included in the bill for the congressional takeover of the former FDA building.—"yea."

Rollcall vote No. 548: On Passage of H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriations.—"nay."

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
CONNIE HUGHES

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Commissioner Connie

Hughes for a long and distinguished career as she retires July 1, 2007, after more than 30 years of public service to New Jersey and its residents.

A commissioner with the New Jersey board of Public Utilities, Commissioner Hughes was appointed to the board in July 2001 by then-Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. She also has served as board president.

She has held numerous senior positions within the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, including serving as its representative to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Government Coordinating Council for the Telecom Sector.

Before joining the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Commissioner Hughes served as then-Governor DiFrancesco's Chief of Management and Policy; ex-officio Commissioner of Higher Education; and on the New Jersey State Planning Commission, the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education, the New Jersey State Board of Human Services, and the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission Board of Directors.

Known chiefly for her expertise in telecommunications policy, Commissioner Hughes focused her career on issues affecting New Jersey and its consumers. My staff and I, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, had the pleasure of working with her on matters of mutual interest to the State.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Connie Hughes on her more than three decades of outstanding public service to my state of New Jersey and its residents.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I supported the Hinchey-Wolf amendment to the FY 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. This amendment would have established a one-year spending limitation with regard to the designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors under section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I supported this limitation amendment because section 1221 is a flawed provision of federal law, and the Department of Energy's implementation of the provision has enhanced concerns about the law rather than addressed them.

Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act grants the Department of Energy unprecedented siting and construction authority for transmission lines. While I strongly support the upgrade of our nation's transmission infrastructure and believe that states and the federal government need tools to make this happen, section 1221 goes too far. The provision